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### The New Handbook.

THE new edition of the Handbook of the Museum, which has just been put on sale, is a volume of three hundred and twenty-five pages, more than one half fuller both in text and illustrations than the first edition of 1906. Five of the six sections treat respectively of Egyptian art; Classical art; Western (or European and American) art — Pictures, Drawings, and Prints; Western art — various collections including Textiles; and Chinese and Japanese art. The final section gives information about the constitution and growth of the Museum and the opportunities it now offers the public and students, and in a few concluding pages presents a brief illustrated account of the new building and a history of the plans. The price of the book postpaid is 60 cents (at the Museum 50 cents) and of each of the sections bound separately 20 cents (at the Museum 15 cents).

The purpose and general method of the book remain the same. Its first aim is to introduce the visitor to some understanding of the individual works of art composing the collections. To that end each illustration is accompanied by a text bearing upon the object illustrated, and each section of the book is preceded by a plan, locating by page-number each of the objects spoken of therein, as far as these have a fixed place in the galleries. Application to see any object not on exhibition may be made by any visitor at the office of the department in the basement of the building.

The Handbook may be used in two ways: either as a guide to the Galleries, by following the plans and reading the pages corresponding to each number reached; or for consecutive reading, the object corresponding to each page as reached being at once to be found, if it have a fixed place among the exhibits, by the aid of the plan. The former method gives an impression of the content of the Galleries and collections; the latter a conspectus of the development of the arts and branches of art represented in the Museum, the illustrations and comments following a chronological order. For the use of those desiring a more complete historical groundwork than is given in the course of the main text, general introductions containing short bibliographies are prefixed to each section. Finally, the page devoted to a synoptical table of the History of Art gives at a glance the historical relations of the Museum collections, each to the other, and to a few main landmarks of universal history. This table is believed the first of the kind in which the Eastern and Western worlds appear on an equality, an innovation inspired by the commanding importance of the Oriental collections of the Museum. As in the first edition of the Handbook, the visitor who desires to see a particular one of the collections is guided to it by the floor plans on the inside covers, in which the galleries of each department have a distinctive color.

The increase in size of the present edition is due in part to the greater number of objects selected for illustration and comment in each department and in part to the addition of new sections — those devoted to the prints and drawings of the Museum and to the new building. The limit of practicable bulk has now been reached, for the book is intended as a *vade mecum* and not a reference book, — an anthology and not an inventory. The publication of a full descriptive and critical catalogue of the possessions of the Museum would be impracticable in a single volume, especially if accompanied by illustrations. The long series of books which would be necessary for such a purpose is represented at present only by the catalogues of casts and of the Morse Collection of Japanese pottery. Another, devoted to the collection of Sword Guards now shown in the Japanese Cabinet, is about to be issued. It has been compiled with the aid of Mr. Kakuya Okabe, Assistant in the care of metal work, and it is hoped will prove a contribution of value to the history of this noteworthy detail of the art of Japan.

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### Notes.

MR. B. H. HILL, Director of the American School at Athens, devoted a part of the month of August to the work of the Department of Classical Art, of which he was formerly Assistant Curator, giving special attention to problems connected with the arrangement and exhibition of the classical collections in the new Museum.

A SELECTION OF WATER COLORS, PASTELS, AND DRAWINGS from the Museum collection have been put on exhibition in the basement corridor reached from the corridor of classical casts. Among the artists represented are Troyon, Turner, Constable, Millet, Harpignes, Barye, Maufray, Copley, Winslow Homer, and Dodge MacKnight.

AMONG THE RECENT ACCESSIONS to the Museum collections are a number of Italian bookbindings of the eighteenth century, the gift of Denman W. Ross. They may be seen in cases in the sixth picture gallery.

THE TOTAL ADMISSIONS TO THE MUSEUM during the months of July and August were 43,852, greater by 13,707 than during the same two months in 1906.

THE SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM opened on Monday, September 30.

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### ERRATUM

On page 49 of the August Bulletin, first column, line four from the bottom of the page, for "Jabez" read "Edward."